

From: Jasmine Magana [Jasmine.Magana@cityofchicago.org]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 1:51 PM
To: REMOC
Subject: Fw: Orr Academy High School

From: Martin Koldyke <mike@martinkoldyke.com>
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 1:11 PM
To: Mayor Emanuel; Janice Jackson
Cc: Jasmine Magana; nturner10@cps.edu
Subject: Orr Academy High School

Dear Rahm and Janice,

On Saturday night Orr Academy High School led by Lou Adams, basketball coach, repeated as Level II State Champions decisively defeating Winnebago, a downstate team whose record was 24 and 2. Lou is a virtuoso coach despite Orr's weak academic record. Based on his reputation, he can recruit outstanding athletes to come to Orr to play for him. The top six players on Orr's 2018 team are all seniors.

First, let me state that Orr Academy High School is a thing apart from its basketball program. Orr remains weak academically and has no prospect for improvement on the West Side. Of the 32 AUSL schools, Orr is the only one where AUSL has faltered in its normal turnaround approach. Moreover, in recent years, AUSL has not trained high school residents at Orr. The West Side is heavily populated with charter high schools and Westinghouse. They are superior to Orr. Of the AUSL elementary schools on the West Side, our principals will not send their kids to Orr unless it's the only remaining option.

In my view, AUSL should no longer be affiliated with Orr. The mission statement at Orr should change. It should not be listed as a college preparatory school. It should become a school for historically failed students or for some other mission all together.

Now let me speak about Lou Adams, Orr's coach. I admire Lou because he takes care of his kids. He should be at a school where his reputation can attract scores of kids whose predominate talent is for basketball. Because of his success, Lou will be recruited by schools throughout Cook County and perhaps elsewhere. I would like to keep him in the AUSL family and create for basketball the same kind of recruiting success that Phillips Academy has demonstrated with its football program. You will remember when we took over Phillips, 12 kids went out for football, and last year over 90 kids came out for football with only 300 boys in the school. We should try to recruit Lou for either Phillips or Collins. On balance I believe Phillips is the better choice. Collins must share its gymnasium facility with North Lawndale College Prep, who shares the building. With a program at a South Side and improving academic high school, Lou could attract 50 or 60 boys to freshman, sophomore and varsity level teams as well as a lead talent that would travel because of Lou.

So, I favor Phillips. Phillips now has 600 students. Its improving academics and continuing prowess in sports led by football will assure continued growth at the school. A basketball program headed by Lou Adams would help that growth to accelerate. Under those circumstances, I believe Phillips could grow to at least 1,000 students. However, Phillips gymnasium is mediocre, and they only have one. Rahm, you will recall last year at the time of the football celebration, you took a minute after the celebration to look at the grassy area behind Phillips which is ample size for a new gym. According to Mike Kelly, such a new gym could be built for approximately \$12 million.

I urge you to move forward on planning for a new gym at Phillips Academy. It would enable us to recruit Lou Adams with the foreknowledge that such an improvement was on the way. With this accomplished, Phillips would unquestionably be among the top 3 or 4 high schools that would compete at the elite levels in both football and basketball and feel ripples throughout all of its other sports programs.

This comes with my best wishes for all your continued success.

Mike

Martin J Koldyke
Founder and Chairman Emeritus
AUSL and Golden Apple Foundation